

THE SHAKERITE

May 29, 2009 • Volume 79 • Issue 8 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

• Dan Whitely's drawing students create cherished images for orphaned kids around the world

PORTRAITS OF KINDNESS

SHAKER TEENS ROBBED
CHECK OUT PAGE 4 TO FIND OUT THE STORY
ON FOUR JUNIORS' RISKY ENCOUNTER

BIG BUCKS FOR BIRTHDAYS
FLIP TO PAGE 6 TO FIND OUT WHAT TO DO IF YOU FORGOT
TO BUY A PRESENT

AN "OX" OF A PLAYER
SHAKER SENIOR BROG ROSS HELPS LEAD
RUGBY TEAM TO VICTORY; SEE PAGE 8

THE SHAKERITE

Volume 79 • Issue 9
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STUDENTS WATCH THE senior festivities in the courtyard through hallway windows. Seniors participated in a human chess game, with white and black students playing the white and black pieces. Participant William Beard, senior, contributed to the event by donning a suit of tin foil armour.

Allie Levin • The Shakerite

Some pranks, a parade and a robotic first

• The Shakerite looks at the month in photos



Allie Levin • The Shakerite

SENIORS PARADED THE hallways tenth period May 7 to celebrate the beginning of the end for the class of 2009. Daniel Bardenstein played the drums as a throng of students followed. Many underclassmen left their classrooms to join the fun.



Courtesy of Joseph Marencik

ENGINEERING STUDENTS TRAVELED to Texas in April to attend the VEX Robotics World Championship. Senior Katie Crowley enjoyed the experience, a first for Shaker students. "It's cool that we will set a tradition for the future teams to go," Crowley stated. Check out page 6 for more about the robotic adventure.



WHAT IS SENIOR week if not a chance to scribble on car windows? In addition to the traditional declarations of senior superiority, this year's messages included some cruel comments directed at specific students as well as tasteless drawings.

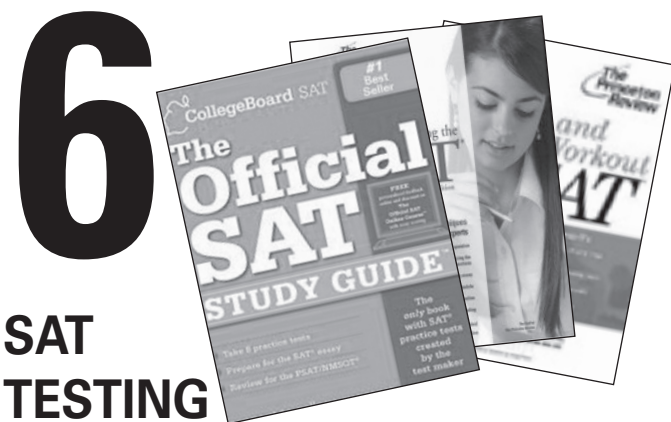
JUNE



3-5 FINAL EXAMS

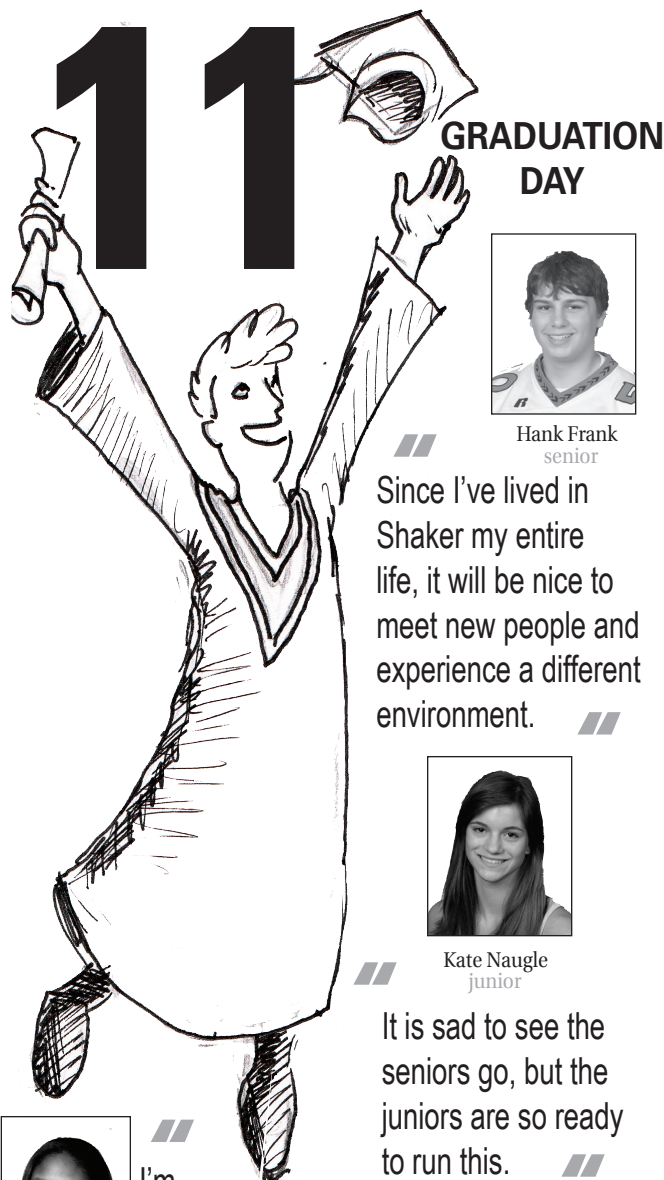
Final exams count for anywhere between 20-25 percent of your grade in the majority of classes. If you have a borderline grade, they can make or break you. Certain teachers, however, take a different approach; John O'Verko, an Advanced Placement Biology teacher, considers a second-semester final a tool to lift his students' grades. Students can bump up their grade up by a letter by scoring a letter grade or higher than their class average at the time of the final. Other AP classes such as AP U. S. History and AP Modern European History have a final project instead of a final exam. This project requires students to set a historical event to music and counts for a single test grade in the class.

FINAL TESTING SCHEDULE			
	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:30-11:30 AM	SCIENCE	FOREIGN LANGUAGE	MATH
1-4 PM	ENGLISH	HISTORY	MAKE-UPS



SAT TESTING

Things to remember before you go into your SAT testing: number two pencils with soft erasers, your admittance slip and a calculator. Make sure you leave your cell phone in your car or locker. College Confidential also suggests making sure to go to sleep sometime between 10-11 p.m. the night before and no amping up on caffeine in the morning. Remember: these are long tests, and high doses of caffeine will cause you to crash halfway through the exam (not to mention that caffeine is a diuretic, which means you'll have to pee like there's no tomorrow). Don't forget to bring a snack for the break; it will pay off on the end. Keeping your blood sugar even throughout the test and preventing yourself from bonking are key.



GRADUATION DAY



Hank Frank
senior

Since I've lived in Shaker my entire life, it will be nice to meet new people and experience a different environment.



Kate Naugle
junior

It is sad to see the seniors go, but the juniors are so ready to run this.



Donna Polk
senior

I'm really excited for graduation and ready to go off to college and branch away from Shaker to experience something different from Shaker life.

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FATHER'S DAY

A day to appreciate our dads; make sure to give your old man a high-five or perhaps a hug. Some penny-saver ideas for Father's Day include taking him to a movie, cooking him breakfast (if you do a good enough job, he might not even realize he paid for the ingredients); or making him a card. Whatever method you choose, make sure to thank presidents Calvin Coolidge, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard "Tricky Dick" Nixon, who collectively made Father's Day a national holiday on the third Sunday of June. Coolidge supported the idea in 1924, Johnson proclaimed it a national holiday in 1966, and Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

Compiled by Julia Celeste

FUN DAYS TO CELEBRATE IN JUNE

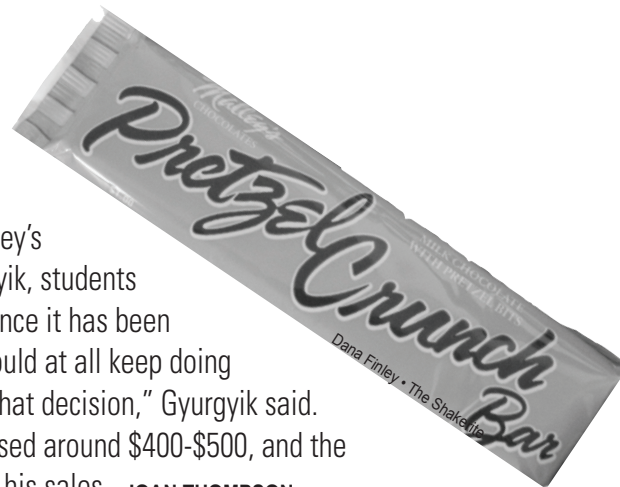
- 1 Oscar the Grouch's Birthday
Indians Game vs. NYY
- 2 Radio was patented in 1896
- 3 First U.S. spacewalk by Ed White in 1965
Senior Project Showcase
- 4 First Ford made Henry Ford made his first operational car in 1896
- 5 National Gingerbread Day
First Hot Air Balloon Flight



- 6 National Yo-Yo Day
- 9 Donald Duck's Birthday
Indians Game vs. KC
- 10 Ball Point Pen Day
Indians Game vs. KC
- 11 E.T. Movie Premiered in 1982.
Indians Game vs. KC
Last Day of School for Students
- 12 Anne Frank's Birthday
Indians Game vs. STL
- 13 Indians Game vs. STL
- 14 Flag Day
World Juggling Day
Indians Game vs. STL
- 15 Fly A Kite Day
Indians Game vs. MIL
- 16 Indians Game vs. MIL
- 17 Eat Your Vegetables Day
Indians Game vs. MIL
- 20 Bald Eagle Day
- 24 U.F.O. Day 1st documented UFO sighting on this day.
- 26 National Chocolate Pudding Day
Toothbrush Invented
- 29 Indians Game vs. CWS
- 30 Superman's Birthday
Indians Game vs. CWS

MALLEY'S SALES CEASE -- AGAIN

Say goodbye to your mid-morning sugar fix. At the last faculty meeting, the administration once again nixed chocolate sales during school. Shaker French students and baseball players had both participated in Malley's fundraisers. According to French teacher Suzanne Gyurgyik, students raised around \$2500 for next year's spring break trip. "Since it has been such a successful fundraiser, it would be helpful if we could at all keep doing it. However, I also understand it is [not] for me to make that decision," Gyurgyik said. Freshman baseball player Spencer Byers said that he raised around \$400-\$500, and the administration's newly enforced rule would not interrupt his sales. **JOAN THOMPSON**



BRIEFS

SPRING DANCE DISAPPOINTS

• While it might have felt like there was an increased police presence at the Spring Fling Dance April 25, Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson says otherwise. According to Hutchinson, one of the police officers stationed at the dance for the night was patrolling his first Shaker dance, and he believed that patrolling the crowd was part of the job description. "It was nothing our students were doing wrong," Hutchinson said. "He didn't know [proper protocol for policing a dance]." Students such as junior Branden Henning, however, think that the police put a definite damper on their night. Henning said, "I was trying to get my grind on, and the police were all up in my business."

FLU PANIC HITS HOME

• Break out your Purell, Shaker, and prepare for a pandemic. At least that's the way Vice President Joe Biden would have it. After officials confirmed that eight students at St. Francis Preparatory Academy in New York City contracted H1N1 influenza, or swine flu, the United States declared a public health emergency April 26. Five days later, Biden alarmed the public when he recommended that Americans not take airplanes, trains or subways. The warning came too late for freshman Michaela Matthews, who traveled to Mexico over spring break. Initially, Matthews was worried, but her mother assured her that she missed the main outbreak. Despite the alarm, swine flu has become a punch line for student jokes. Freshman Graham Fine, who thinks that the media overreacted to the flu, often makes pig noises after people cough or sneeze. At press time, 10 people have died of swine flu in the United States.

Compiled by Dana Finley and Joan Thompson

4 JUNIORS MUGGED AT GUNPOINT

• After giving up wallets in SMS lot, students assist injured classmate, give chase to assailants

BY JOAN THOMPSON AND DANA FINLEY
NOTEWORTHY EDITORS

Four Shaker juniors were robbed at gunpoint Fri. May 8 at approximately 9:30 p.m. in the Shaker Heights Middle School front parking lot.

Juniors Matt Balester, Andrew Fraser, Tyler Leftridge and Jed Rutchick planned to meet a Hawken School friend at the parking lot to formulate plans. The friend arrived after the attack.

Five minutes after the students arrived in the parking lot, a gray van pulled into the parking lot. The four juniors claimed four people exited the car.

"We weren't scared at all," Fraser said.

According to the boys, the four suspects asked the juniors if they had any cell phones or marijuana. After the juniors said no, one person pulled out a weapon. Doyle S. Lee, Shaker Heights Chief of Police, said that the weapon has not yet been determined.

At first, the juniors were shocked. "We thought it was a joke," Fraser said. Soon, however, the students realized that the strangers posed a serious threat. The gunman pointed the weapon at Leftridge and ordered him to empty his pockets.

"As he did, he hit him on the forehead just above his eye," Balester said. One robber muttered, "Just shoot him."

The boys were alarmed. "We seriously thought he got stabbed," Rutchick said. "We didn't see anything at first; we just saw [Leftridge] on the ground." The gunman then aimed his gun at the other juniors and stole valuables, including wallets, cell phones, an iPhone and gift cards.

The robbers ran to the van, which was parked by the

middle school gyms.

Balester ran into the street and flagged down a car. He used the driver's cell phone to call 911 while Rutchick called 911 from another phone.

Fraser got into his car and drove after them, accompanied by a car that the boys flagged down for a cell phone following the attack. The driver of the escort car was on the phone with the police as they drove along with Fraser, who estimates that he was driving around 100 miles per hour.

"I thought to myself, 'I can still make a difference. This is not going to happen to us,'" Fraser said. Both Fraser and the police recorded the van's license plate number.

Balester stayed with Leftridge, who was bleeding on the parking lot ground, and gave him his T-shirt to combat bleeding.

According to the students, the police arrived within a minute of the call. "Once [the robbers] saw the cops, four of them got out of the van and began to run," Fraser said.

An ambulance took Leftridge to the hospital, where he stayed from approximately 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. and received five stitches.

"I just have headaches from time to time, and my jaw hurts. The left side of my head hurts when pressure is put on it. I had a CAT scan, and the doctors said that there was nothing wrong," Leftridge stated two days after the attack in a Facebook interview.

While Leftridge was at the hospital, the three other juniors rode in an undercover police car to the station, where they remained until 1 a.m. They recognized one of the robbers, who later confessed and turned in his twin



Fraser



Leftridge

brother. The driver of the van also turned herself in later.

Lee also confirmed one 13-year-old was arrested the night of the attacks. The police have several other suspects.

The students did not fight back. "I'm so glad that my friends could watch me get hit and hold their anger inside, and then do everything right," Leftridge stated.

The students debated whether the assailants attacked Leftridge, who is African American, because of his race because of his location in relation to the van. Lee said there is no evidence supporting that the attack was racially motivated.

The juniors all called their parents after the attack. Leftridge called his father and asked him to deactivate his cell phone. Balester said that his mother was confused and shocked about the attack. Their parents have been in communication with the police. The students emphasized that they were not participating in any illegal activity in the parking lot. "Tell me some kid who hasn't gone to a parking lot to meet someone," Leftridge said. "[The attack] was definitely by chance."

The boys explained that they were in a visible area of the lot, which they assumed was safe. The police report stated that the boys were not suspected of using drugs or alcohol. The report also stated that it is unclear whether or not the offenders were under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The juniors remain optimistic about the robbers' arrests. Fraser said, "They're all going to get caught."

FREEMAN TO STAY ON THROUGH JULY 2013

BY LAYNE SIMS
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Despite an organized community effort to delay the decision, the Shaker Heights Board of Education unanimously voted May 12 to renew the contract of Superintendent Mark Freeman until July 31, 2013.



Freeman

The board renewed the contract, which was due to expire on July 31, 2010, even though some community members complained about Freeman's performance and what they considered the board's rush to rehire him. Four people spoke to the board at the meeting. All were parents of either current Shaker students or graduates themselves.

None specified exactly what they disliked about Freeman's performance. Online petitions calling for the board to postpone the decision gathered more than 200 signatures. The petitions, circulated by residents displeased with the board's responses to their questions about the pending renewal at an April 14 meeting, called for a year-long national search for a new superintendent.

In a letter to the community, board President F. Drexel Feeling said that 200 signatures could not repre-

sent the views of all 11,000 Shaker Heights voters. "It is our informed belief, based on numerous contacts with residents, that the community and district staff share our high degree of confidence in Dr. Freeman," he stated.

Feeling also reiterated at the meeting that he felt issues with Freeman's renewal were not focused on Freeman himself, but on his renewal process. "I did hear from some who had questions regarding the whole process," he said. "It was not necessarily that they had a strong opinion one way or the other."

Before the May 12 vote to renew the contract, the board heard comments from the public. However, it did not entertain questions on their decision. Instead, the meeting focused on the board's approval of Freeman and it's ideas to improve the schools.

Feeling said Freeman has made significant progress in all objectives set by the board, although he did not specify what the objectives were. Some people at the meeting were unsure why the board thought Freeman had been successful. The four who spoke at the meeting wondered how a longstanding, experienced employee of Shaker schools had allowed the decline of the district.

The board has suggested an "Appreciative Inquiry" that would allow the community to give input on its de-

cisions. The inquiry would relay opinions from the community to the board, which would use them to influence decisions and plans it would put forward.

"The Board firmly believes in community engagement," Feeling said. Citizens who attended the May 12 meeting became frustrated with what they felt was the board's secrecy. They felt that board members had already decided to renew Freeman before the meeting was held.

"I feel that before you came here, the decision was already made, and no public opinion could sway it," said Chris Ramsay, one of the four speakers at the meeting. Ramsay later questioned the board on why it decided to renew Freeman now when his contract expires next year.

Board member Freda Levenson responded by saying that the board was allowed to make the decision as early as Jan. 1 of this year.

"I understand that 85 percent of the district voted for [Barack] Obama last year. That would mean that the people of this district aren't adverse to change. Instead of focusing on the district's problems and frustrations, we should focus on the future and turning problems into solutions," Levenson said.



RECYCLING: WHY ARE WE WAITING?

With the new cafeteria service came plenty of cans and plastic food containers that wind up in the trash at the end of each lunch period. A single aluminum can takes an average of 500 years to decompose, and plastic containers take 250 years each. The city will pick up sorted materials from homes, however it does not pick up from schools. According to district Operations Manager Fred Shalhoup, Mercer and Onaway Elementary Schools and Shaker Middle School recycle through Waste Management. Shalhoup said Waste Management would pick up recycling at the high school if students were to ask them. Considering how eco-friendly most students try to be, we should get our act together before summer break and organize recycling for next fall.

ILANA KRAMER



Senior spirit to stupidity

What was once a celebratory day when seniors lounged on the lawn, paraded the oval and pulled clever pranks has become a week of crude acts culminating in unsavory lawn day behavior.



Rachel Shaw

Legitimate pranks may be immature, but they are ultimately harmless and entertaining. Seniors parked around the oval using as much space as possible and wrote “Class of ’09” or “Seniors Rule” on every car window. Unfortunately, “You wish you were a senior” turned into “You wish you could get a senior.” “You’re fat,” or “You’re a creeper” messages were painted on windshields. Students drove home in cars displaying vulgar remarks, obscenities or even explicit pictures. Worse, mirrors and windshields were painted, compromising drivers’ safety.

Pranks have become increasingly rude and inhumane. Putting goldfish in restroom sinks is a new low. On the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals website, German philosopher Albert Schweitzer states, “There are plenty of kind, gentle ways for us to . . . entertain ourselves that do not involve killing animals.”

Water drained out of the sinks and evaporated. Students tried to save fish by keeping the motion-detector sinks running. However, the water kept getting hotter, boiling the fish.

Shelley Schlenk, University of South Carolina marine biologist, said fish have an attention span of less than one second and were unaware that they were suffocating. She added, however, “Whether or not you think to yourself ‘I’m suffocating’ doesn’t change the fact that you are.”

Leaving fish to die is not a prank. It’s cruelty.

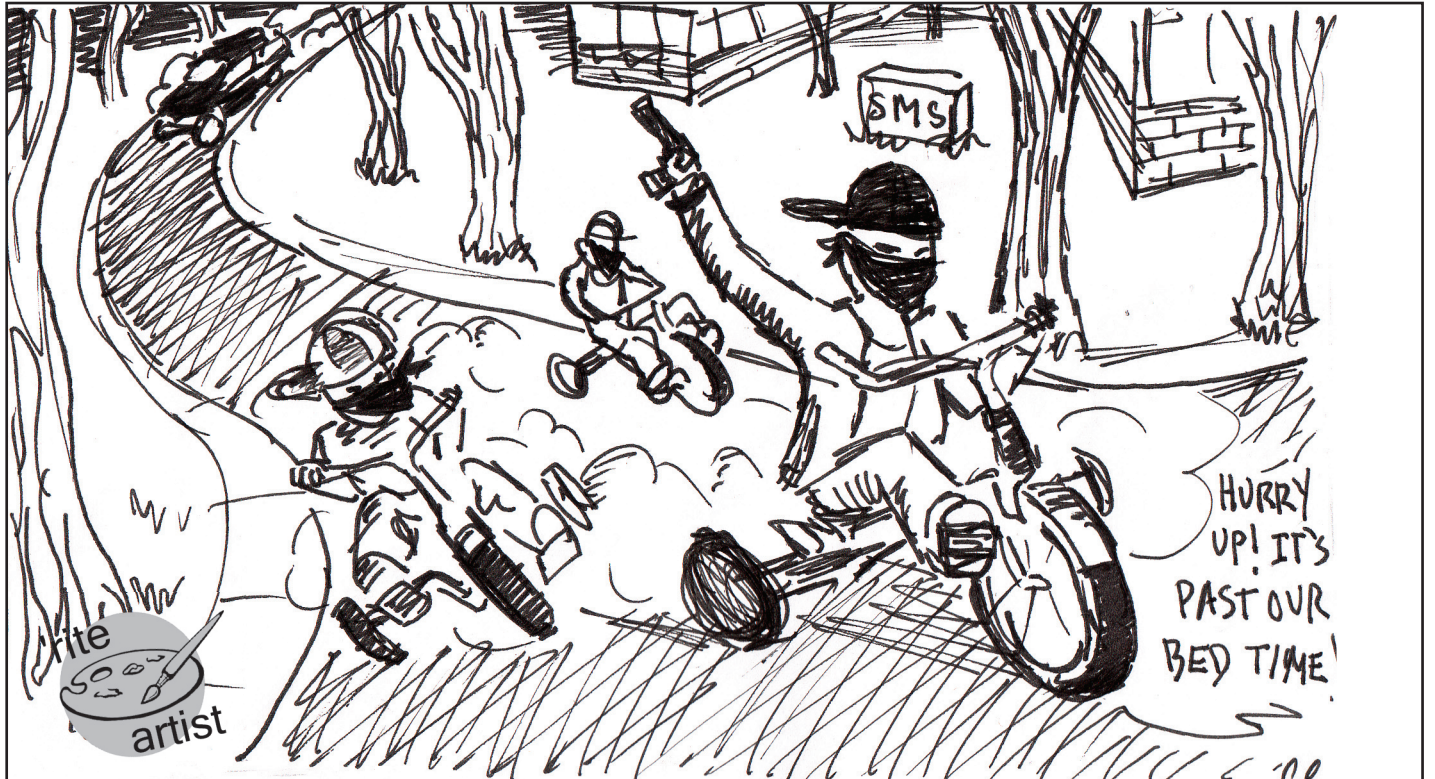
Seniors put Vaseline on doorknobs and railings all over the school every year. It’s funny – unless there’s an allergy. Petroleum, the active ingredient in Vaseline, can irritate or burn skin.

By contrast, the black against white human chess game was original. While some people thought it appeared racist, the intent was to display unity as contestants embraced after a draw.

All the hijinks try teachers’ patience. Students flocked to windows to watch the chess game or returned from the restroom complaining about dying fish and itching powder. When seniors paraded around the school, underclassmen watched or followed, and teachers threatened detentions. The disruptions are easier to bear for creative pranks, when even teachers can forgive seniors.

By prank week, seniors have worked hard, gotten into colleges, and are about to go on project. They deserve a week of fun. But how do seniors forget the past three years? As freshmen, weren’t they wary of restrooms during prank week?

When your turn comes, don’t forget yourself during prank week. It takes very little to get a black mark on your transcript forever. Don’t be inhumane. Be mature; be remembered as the class of funny, harmless pranks.



SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST

The May 8 mugging of four students in Shaker Middle School parking lot at 9:45 p.m. should make us all realize that we can’t take our safety for granted. We typically wander the town carefree. We need to make sure that we are aware of our surroundings at all times. Especially during summer, when we are out late alone or with friends, we become easy targets for thirsty robbers.

The recent mugging was not the first to befall students, but the use of a gun marks a dangerous escalation in the criminals’ approach.

A Shakerite staff member endured a similar experience last summer in broad daylight. While walking on Shaker Boulevard alone at 2 p.m., she was approached by two men who put a gun to her stomach and demanded her purse.

In a dangerous situation, make sure to think before taking any risky actions. According to the teen section of Kidshealth.org, the best thing to do is to avoid fighting an attacker. The website states, “Self-defense is all about using your smarts — not your fists.”

Chief of Police Doyle Lee says the best thing to do is give the muggers what they want. By agreeing with them, and taking harsher, legal action later, you put yourself in a safer place.

Traveling in groups will decrease the likelihood of being

mugged, but it was a group of four boys who were targeted May 8. However, there were nearly as many muggers as students and the muggers did have a gun.

Although traveling in a group is safer, it is not risk-free. Stay away from isolated areas with little activity, and when alone, make sure to act confidently and be alert.

When you’re out, stick with this simple advice: your safety always comes first. Although finding the license plate number of your attacker’s car could help catch the muggers, speeding after armed criminals at 100 miles per hour can result in grave consequences. The attackers were apparently not averse to using their gun; one of them allegedly said, “Just shoot them!” during the assault.

We don’t want to write another obituary, nor do we want a cover that reads “Shaker student shot.” So, enjoy your summer nights, but in the words of the morning announcers, “Be safe, be respectful and be responsible, Shaker.” Emphasis on the safe.



IS PRANK WEEK FUNNY?

Cheers to Principal Michael Griffith for allowing pranks.

Jeers to teachers without a sense of humor during prank week. *Teachers, for those harmless pranks, just forget yourselves and have fun for a few minutes.*

Cheers to custodial staff working around the clock to clean up on prank week.

Jeers to seniors putting itching powder on toilet seats and toilet paper, smearing Vaseline on doorknobs and stairway railings, throwing flour at underclassmen and egging cars. *Some of it is just gross. The custodial staff has to clean up everything around the building every day and cleaning up everything the seniors do during prank week is just unfair. It shows a complete lack of understanding.*

Cheers to seniors who line danced in the hallways.

Jeers to seniors putting condoms and tape on the locks on the lockers.

Seniors might get the week off, but for the rest of us, classes go on. Don’t make it harder for students to get through their school day.

Cheers to seniors for a live, Harry Potter-esque chess game in the courtyard.

Jeers to seniors for letting laxatives find their ways into brownies.

Seniors, show your pride and school spirit without harming anyone. But really, why would anyone take food from a senior during prank week?

Cheers to no dead animals in the library.

Jeers to seniors putting live fish in bathroom sinks.

Animal cruelty is no joke. On the upside, no dead animals anywhere else in the school.

SMS TO SHHS, WITH HELP FROM CLASS OF 2012

English teacher Jewel Reid noticed some freshmen don't do their summer reading, so she teamed up with eighth grade English teacher Doug Myles to make it happen. Reid's freshmen wrote letters to Myles' eighth graders to ease the move from middle school. "I told the person I was writing to that they should definitely not skip classes and they should do all their work because it is definitely going to be harder," said Reid's student Rebecca Fox. At a cookout this month, the eighth graders will get the summer reading book and school supplies. "We want to make a personal connection with the eighth graders," Reid said, "hoping that social contact will promote academic success."

TAYLOR SWAN



Jewel Reid

PIN A DOLLAR ON THE BIRTHDAY BOW

• Goodbye wrapped gifts, hello crumpled bills

BY ELLEN HOLCOMB
THE BEAT EDITOR

Feeling guilty because you spaced out on your friend's birthday gift?

Relax. Just pin \$10 to their shirt and call it a day.

According to sophomore Kendal Woods, birthday pin money, collected throughout the day from family, friends and, in some cases, strangers, starts when birthday celebrants pin a small amount of their own money to their shirt. The seed money lets everyone know the wearer is celebrating a birthday and invites people to contribute.



Young

"I have collected hundreds of dollars on my birthday, mostly from my friends," said Woods, who participates most years. She began to follow the tradition as a young child after seeing older kids doing it.

"I don't know how [the tradition] started. I just saw what other people were doing so I started," Woods said.

According to Woods, people can acquire large amounts of pin money. "I saw this one guy who had, like, 50 twenties pinned to him!" Woods said.

Students find it more convenient to give money because it is lightweight and they always have it on them, sophomore Kayla Young explained. Offering money is much easier than giving gifts. Plus, you're off the hook if you forgot to buy one.

Young accumulated \$35 for her birthday this year on May 11.

Typically, she collects about \$20 and has been participating in the tradition since seventh grade. "The most amount of money I have gotten on my birthday was \$300," Young said. "I do this so I can celebrate my birthday with my friends, and I like dressing up for my birthday. It's cool, and I get lots of money." With the money she makes, Young goes shopping for a new outfit.

Young's birthday bounty illustrates the difference between good friends and acquaintances. "My close friends bought me balloons, made me a cake and decorated my locker, and my other friends just give me money," she said.

Young said no one has ever tried to grab her birthday pin money while walking in the hallway. "Maybe, like, one person will ask for \$1 just joking around, but no one has tried to take the money off of my shirt," she said, laughing. "They know not to mess with me."

Young said pin money is not everyone's birthday wish. "Some people aren't into it, others think they may not get money and



ON KAYLA YOUNG'S birthday, May 11, family and friends pinned \$35 to her shirt.

some people might be scared that people might take their money," she said.

Shaker math teacher Walter

Slovikowski has been a teacher at Shaker Heights for 21 years. In those years, he has witnessed the act of pinning money to shirts by many students. "I'd say I have been noticing it at least within the last dozen years."

The display of pin money can be considered a demand for more. What if you don't have money to give or don't care to?

Said Young, "I have done it since seventh grade. It has never come across as a demand to me."

Students engineer first trip to robot world championships

DISSECTING TEAM 1009C'S ROBOT

BY MIRIAM CHELIMSKY
THE BEAT EDITOR

The competitors enter the arena bearing flags of their respective countries, shouting and singing their national anthems. The arena crackles with emotion: the competition is set to begin.

All of this excitement for robots.

The engineering class competed in the national Vex Robotics Tournament at Cleveland State University Feb. 28. The tournament is a required class project that takes about six weeks of work. Engineering teacher Joseph Marencik divided the class into four teams for the project. When not enough people from other schools enrolled, he entered all of his students' robots.

The class was rewarded when three teams qualified for the second annual Vex Robotics World Championships in Dallas in May. It was Shaker's first visit to the competition; they placed 65th and 104th out of approximately 200 teams. According to Marencik, the engineering class gives students the chance to apply theoretical ideas to an engineering environment. The projects that deal with micro gravity, rocketry, flight, robotics and roller coasters.

Eian Katz, a member of team 1009C, went to the world championships with seniors Daniel Murphy, Alex Almasan and Katie Crowley. Almasan and Katz agreed that even though they didn't

place well, it was still a great experience. The team worked every day on the robot, but compared to other teams at the competition, it wasn't enough. "Most teams worked on their robot for years, and it made it difficult to do well," Katz said.

The students said that although the overall competition atmosphere was festive and enjoyable, the competition was serious and aggressive. Murphy said teams would scout their opponents in the evenings. Each team competed in six matches, and the top 16 teams went to the finals.

According to the Vex Robotics website, this year's competition theme, elevation, was designed to test not only the robot, but also the skills of the team. Two random teams were paired and had to work together to compete against another set of teams in a red team-blue team face off. Each team's robots had to pick up all the cubes of their color and place them into the goal in order to win.

"The first 20 seconds of the competition are computer controlled, meaning the students have to program the robots," Marencik said. "Then, the last two minutes are remote controlled, so a lot of work goes into this. The students not only have to use engineering skills, but also other skills, such as computer programming, to achieve this," he said.

Regardless of the results, "the experience was awesome, and all people should take engineering to be able to go!" Almasan said.

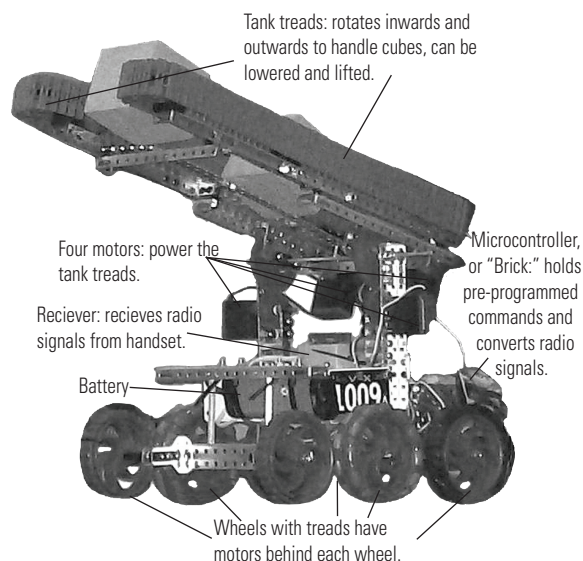


Photo Courtesy of Joseph Marencik

Evan Wheeler • The Shakerite

SOCIAL NETWORKING GOES MUSICAL

Need new songs on your iPod for days at the beach or a plane ride across the country this summer? Within minutes, Last.fm recommends songs and artists based on your favorite hits. Creating a username, password and stating a few favorite songs helps Last.fm generate a library with your favorite tracks, new adored songs and recommendations from the site. Categorizing your music by forming playlists allows other users to access your site and adds a social network to this service. You can join groups with similar tastes, befriend other users and comment on their libraries. If you're looking for new songs and a few new friends to share them with, check out the offerings at Last.fm.

KATIE INGLIS



DRAWING FACES OF HOPE

BY BRANDON PATTERSON
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

ANNA OBERFELD DRAWS a portrait of an orphan from the Philippines, an experience she found emotional. "After drawing him and looking into his eyes it really starts to get to you," Oberfeld said.



• Art students draw, send portraits to orphans with Memory Project

Studying the photo is difficult, even painful. The orphan's grieving eyes stir waves of sympathy. The scars are evident of a hard life in the Philippines. His emaciated body suggests that he doesn't get enough to eat.

Some Shaker art students have spent hours staring at such images in order to provide a glimpse of light to 28-orphaned children worldwide. As participants in a non-profit educational program called The Memory Project, the artists are studying the children's

faces then drawing them. They will send their drawings to those children, providing them with a treasure to call their own.

"The Memory Project gives them a piece of themselves in a way that they aren't used to seeing; it gives them something solid in their life," said Art Department Chairman and Advanced Drawing teacher Dan Whitely, organized his students' participation in the project.

The Memory Project, which began in 2004 and have now pro-

duced more than 20,000 portraits, aims to give the children a sense of identity and memory of their childhoods while helping students develop a sense of compassion and kindness.

After a student's mother brought this project to Whitely's attention, he was inspired to have the Shaker art department join in the mission.

"We decided to join the Memory Project because I knew that my students had the skill to do it, and it was an opportunity to give back to a community, to people who do not have a lot," Whitely said.

Passionate Shaker art students wanted to get involved immediately. After receiving the photos of the orphans from the Philippines, the Shaker artists began drawing.

"It seemed like a really good way to reach out," said sophomore Advanced Drawing student Diane Ryu. "It became very personal."

Although the photos arrived without biographical information, studying the images helped the participating students feel connected to the children they set out to draw.

"When the pictures of the orphans are sent to us," said Whitely, "they come with just a number. There are rarely ones that come with names, so it might have been difficult for the students to connect."

Ryu, nevertheless, felt familiar with her subject. "You're looking at this kid for hours, and while you're drawing them, you begin to get to know them," she said.

According to the Memory Project's website, the knowledge of a distant individual's kindness can inspire hope and optimism among orphaned children.

According to the site, younger children are very excited to receive their portraits, while teenagers are more likely to examine their likenesses in private at first and to display them in their lockers or bedrooms later. Some children send drawings or handprints back to the students who drew their portraits.

Despite the anonymity of their subjects, the artists have responded emotionally to their work.

"As I drew the picture I wanted to get to know the girl. The way her eyes looked, the scars on her face, those little things are what made this experience priceless," said freshman Brian Benton. "That's when it got emotional."

Whitely realizes that his students' work cannot help every child in need, but helping at least one child is well worth the work.

"We can't change the world, but we can make a difference . . . even if it is one person," Whitely said. "When you give back talent, that's something special."

Expect Respect: The road to no abuse is to know abuse

BY KATIE INGLIS
LIMELIGHT EDITOR

No troupe gives teenagers a reality check like Expect Respect.

"You can tell that people are very uncomfortable with the subjects. During discussions people giggle and say ignorant things, not because you were horrible, but because they were touched and uncomfortable about asking about the topic," junior Emily Brindza said.

Expect Respect, a program sponsored by the Jewish Family Service Association of Cleveland, comprises a cast and advisory panel of local high school students. Created in 2001, Expect Respect educates students about preventing violence within dating relationships. According to group's website, about one in three high school

students have been or will be involved in an abusive relationship, and fewer than three percent of these students search for help.

The cast performs a play of about 45 minutes that depicts scenarios in violent relationships. One example portrays the characters of Phil and Jen, the popular couple. Jen tries to hide her fear and anger when Phil hits her, but inside she's aching. Her anger can cause her to hit Phil or emotionally abuse the less popular girls.

Junior Edith Anderson, a member of the advisory panel, explains that the panel modifies the



WEINSTEIN, ANDERSON, BRINDZA and Shick sport Expect Respect T-shirts to make students aware of teen dating violence.

plication, but junior Beth Shick said participating is not about perks. "I love acting, and it's a topic I'm passionate about," she said.

Freshman Jonah Weinstein said the qual-

performances by taking feedback from audiences and collaborates to decide if any of the scenarios need to be changed so that they remain authentic. Prospective members must audition and demonstrate knowledge about abusive relationships.

Expect Respect provides credit for community service hours and can be included on a college ap-

plique. "You can tell that people are very uncomfortable with the subjects. During discussions people giggle and say ignorant things, not because you were horrible, but because they were touched and uncomfortable about asking about the topic," junior Emily Brindza said.

Teen outreach specialist and program adviser Dahlia Harris explained that cast members are sometimes surprised to realize that they or people close to them may have been involved in abusive relationships.

Shick describes her experience as rewarding and influential. She said, "Out of anything I've done throughout high school, this has probably had the most influence on me . . . You are doing a great thing for other people as well as having an amazing experience for yourself."



SOFTBALL RETAINS LEL TITLE BEHIND PETER

Although the softball team was hoping for a better record, their season certainly cannot be seen as a disappointment. The Raiders followed up a 16-4 L.E.L championship season in 2008 with a 14-6 mark and a second L.E.L. title in 2009. Senior pitcher Kathy Peter once again demonstrated her dominance throughout the 2009 season, especially in the rival game against Cleveland Heights when Peter pitched a complete game with 17 strikeouts and hit a homerun, as well as hitting the game winning RBI in the L.E.L championship game against Euclid.

TOM O'NEILL



Rugby rules, 397-30

The pain was unbearable as the bone shredded its way out of its socket and my shoulder numbed. My head collided with the 6'4" Ignatius player, it started throbbing and I forgot what sport I was playing. When I felt stable enough, I stood up and looked around. I remembered I was playing . . . rugby.

Not football, rugby.



Patrick Pohlman

In rugby, there are no breaks between tackles, and, oh yes, you don't play with pads. You're allowed a mouth guard. That's it.

Unlike football, every player can make a big play. Every player gets to tackle, every player gets to run the ball, and every player gets to go for glory. Because there are no pads, injuries are frequent. Three of them, senior

Broc Ross, juniors Theo Albano and myself, have dislocated or badly injured their shoulders -- all during the same game.

Shaker's rugby club started in 2006. My friends talked me into playing, and I fell in love with the game. The coach, science teacher and England native Geoffrey Gainford, taught me everything I needed to know with such passion. He showed us defense is the most important aspect of the game, and he always says never be afraid of a guy who's bigger than you -- as long as you run hard at him, he won't want to tackle or run the ball at you again. He was right. If you go in hard the first few times, the other guys keep their distance.

Although our team is a club, we have been a top team at Shaker for the past three years. In 2008, we lost three games and finished 11-3. This year we are 9-0 and stomping our opponents by a 397-30 total score. We beat last year's champions, St. Ignatius, 12-11. (The Wildcats beat us in overtime last year 25-20 in the championship).

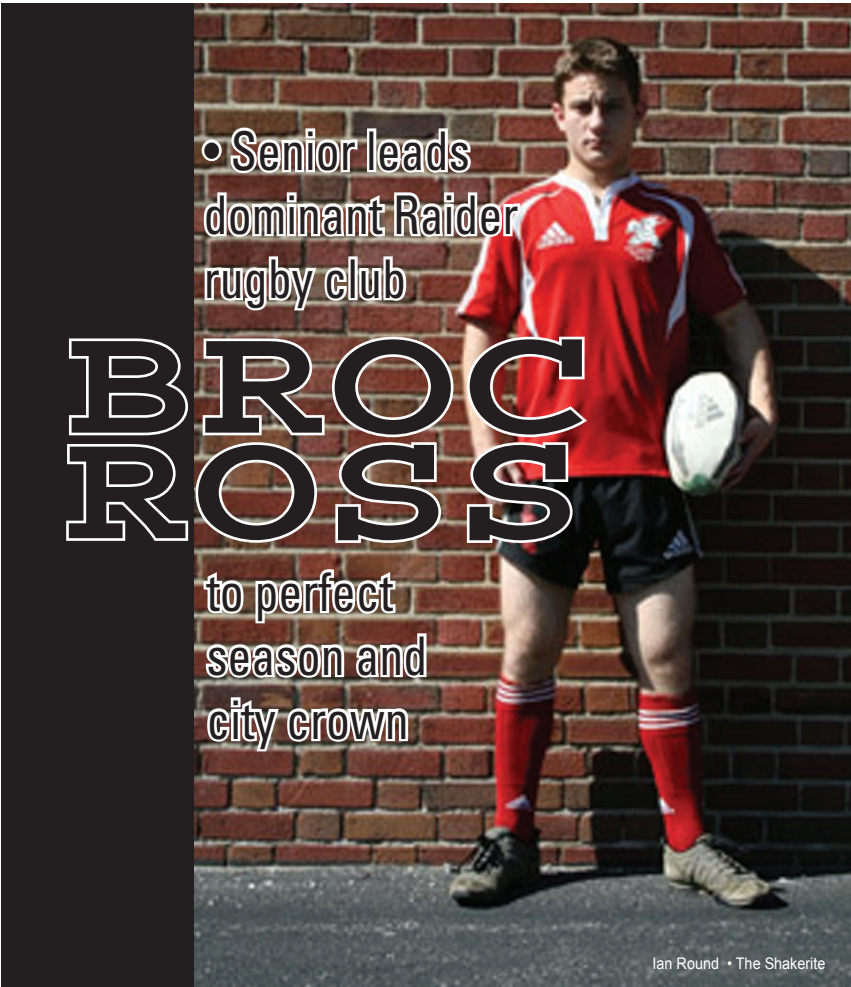
The Rugby City Championships were held May 15 and 16 in Canton, but Gainford couldn't attend because he plays for a men's team that made it to nationals. We still won our quarterfinal 72-0 against Lakewood and beat Mayfield 14-10 in the semi-finals. Capping the amazing championship run we beat Hudson in the final 26-0.

We are losing 10 starters and are in need of players for next year's season, so if you want to play the most exhilarating sport ever and don't mind the agony that accompanies it, come out for the squad.

• Senior leads dominant Raider rugby club

BROC ROSS

to perfect season and city crown



Ian Round • The Shakerite



Photos courtesy of Robert Fisher

FROM TOP RIGHT: senior Jordan Johnson is lifted to receive a thrown-in ball; Shaker players engage in a scrum and work the ball toward the back of the huddle; junior Patrick Pohlman runs downfield with the ball; Senior Broc Ross has used his strength to conquer injury and anchor the Raiders' romp through the competition.

BY IAN ROUND
RAIDERZONE EDITOR

Senior Broc Ross warms up in the weight room by bench-pressing a mere 135 pounds -- the weight of a typical freshman.

Once warmed up, Ross will bench the equivalent of a National Football League defensive lineman -- 300 pounds or even more.

His arms and upper body are so muscular that, when relaxed, they hang at an angle to his body, not straight down.

All that muscle pays off on the rugby field. Ross's strength has helped lead the rugby team to a 9-0 record this season, a mark that included a district championship as well as victories over formidable St. Edward and St. Ignatius, the first ranked team in Ohio.

Ross began playing rugby in seventh grade when he lived in Utah. With an athletic friend and not much to do in the boring state, they tried it out.

"We went to a first practice and thought it was awesome," he said. When Ross moved to Shaker his junior year, he joined the high school rugby club.

Ross plays scrum-half, the link between the pack (the big strong players) and the backs (the smaller, faster players). "It's his job to keep the team moving forward," head coach Geoffrey Gainford said.

Ross's immediate goal is to play for the American U-19 Eagles, a semi-professional team for players 19 and under, and from there, join a professional team. He was recommended for a summer-long tryout for the U-19 team this summer. Try-outs are held in about five national regions, with 30 players per region. Only 30 players total move on to play for the official team.

Although Ross isn't a Shaker team captain, he is still a leader. "He leads

more by example than he does anything else," Gainford said. "He's just a guy that has a good head for the game."

Gainford said one of Ross's assets is his drive. "The intensity that he brings to the game is probably what he's best at . . . his drive to win, his drive to compete is very strong."

Three weeks before the first game of the season, Ross separated his shoulder, dislocating his acromioclavicular joint, the connection between the shoulder bone and the collarbone.

"I just got back from practice, and it started aching," he said. Ross aggravated the injury in the beginning of the St. Ignatius game April 27 when he took a knee to the top of the shoulder. Ross said the aggravation was the real injury because it was then that his shoulder began to swell. Despite this, he remained in the game.

Rugby injuries are more frequent and more drastic than in other sports, due in part to the players' lack of protective padding. "In all the games I've played in, there's at least been an injury every game," he said. Once, a player wearing cleats stepped on the side of Ross's knee, and even now, the instability prevents him from doing certain lifts.

"I won't call that an injury," Ross said, explaining that he did not miss a game because of it. "We call it an injury when [players] have to be taken out."

Although Ross has not missed any games, the injury has kept him out of the weight room. "I used to go in every day . . . [but the injury] has kept me out of lifting for several weeks," he said.

While his ultimate goal is to play professionally, Ross is also interested in becoming an Army Ranger, as evidenced by the camouflage pants he wears in the weight room. "He has a very distinct sense of patriotism," said Bioethics teacher and strength and conditioning coach Mark Hoskins.

Said junior wing Theo Albano, "He's just an ox."



Courtesy of Robert Fisher

JUNIOR PATRICK POHLMAN and two teammates battle for the ball against St. Ignatius in a 12-11 victory.